

# THE LEDGER.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11.

## FOR PROSECUTING ATTORNEY.

WE are authorized to announce JAMES G. TRIMBLE, a candidate for Prosecuting Attorney of Audrain county, subject to the action of the Democratic party.

## FOR SHERIFF.

WE are authorized to announce W. F. CRIDLER, a candidate for Sheriff of Audrain county, subject to the action of the Democratic party.

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## A School Girl's Death.

### MISS ALICE HOWLETT DIES FROM AN OVERDOSE OF LAUDANUM.

A Hardin College Student Ends Her Irksome Existence in the Beauty of Life's Morning.

### A Cool and Deliberate Attempt, the Result of Months of Meditation—Her Plans for Obtaining the Drug—A Letter to Mother and a Word for Her Sweetheart.

GAUNT Death stepped into the quiet wards of Hardin College Tuesday night at the beck of a dimpled finger and the call of a girlish voice, and bade away to his billion-peopled realm the form of Alice Howlett. Death was the end desired and laudanum in quantity was the means to the end.

That evening at the Ferris Grand Opera House Miss Howlett, of Charleston, Mo., sat among her school-mates and clapped her hands time and again. During the intermissions her conversation was full of brilliant wit and repartee and to all she appeared perfectly happy—perhaps she was, in the knowledge that she would soon bid adieu to all her girlish troubles and school girl perplexities. At 10:30 o'clock the column of blue-dressed girls had reached Hardin College and Miss Ford, one of the teachers, stopped to chat with Miss Howlett in the hall. She was in gay spirits and Miss Ford marked it.

At 15 minutes to 11 o'clock Miss Howlett and her room-mate, pretty Kitty Bates, were preparing to retire; when suddenly the electric lights in the room went out. It found Miss Bates reading a chapter in her Bible. As she read she saw Miss Howlett take a bottle, step to the wash-stand, and drink from the vial. She thought nothing of it as she knew Miss Howlett had a bottle of medicine given her by her mother. Miss Bates was reading when Miss Howlett turned and said: "Don't read but a verse, Kitty. Let us get to sleep." "No, I'm going to read a chapter," and getting matches, she held one after another until the flame would touch her fingers, and read by the dim light afforded until the chapter was finished. As she read the chapter, the last chapter in the life of her friend was being acted out. Both fell asleep, Miss Bates in the deep sleep of exhaustion that follows a day of study and an evening of amusement; Miss Howlett in the heavy slumber which follows the administration of opium poison.

A scant half hour later Miss Birtie Moss and her room-mate, in an adjoining room, were awakened by labored breathing from their neighbors' room. They feared that all was not right and went to investigate. They could not arouse, with the aid of Miss Bates, the girl who was evidently in pain. The effect had been sudden. They aroused the governess, who hurried to Mrs. Williams, wife of Prof. W. H. Williams, who set off post haste for Dr. W. R. Rodes, who arrived at 12:30 and did all he could to arouse the girl. Quickly following came Dr. Landon Rodes and Dr. T. J. Baskett. Miss Howlett's stomach was emptied of its contents and every effort at resuscitation was tried without avail. She was kept alive until 6:55 o'clock in the morning, when her heart ceased to beat.

A LETTER TO HER MOTHER.

While the physicians, professors, and teachers were trying to find an empty bottle from which they could determine the exact nature of the poison, a sealed letter addressed to Miss Howlett's mother, at Charleston, Mo., on the line of the Iron Mountain road, was found.

In their anxiety to learn something to enlighten their efforts, the letter was opened and read. No cause for her act was given, but only enough to give a clue. This clue the authorities at Hardin would not divulge without the parents' consent, which can not be obtained at present. The father, who is a well-to-do business man, was notified and arrived last night.

During this time some one found a three-ounce bottle in the lower drawer of the wash-stand. It had only a few drops in it, and these were of laudanum. The label bore a statement to that effect. One of the girls glanced at the open page of the letter and read aloud the first sentence: "No doubt you will be surprised to learn I am now approaching my end." This was too much for their overstrained nerves, and several turned away with sobs, while the letter fell to the floor. Professor Yancey placed it in his pocket. It is learned that another fragment runs thus:

"I told you when I came back to school after the holidays that you would never see me again. I meant what I said. I have sent to my sweetheart all of my letters and trinkets. When I told you that you laughed at me, but now you see I was in earnest. Be good to the rest of the children and my older sister. Send something of mine to— for a keepsake; something for him to remember me."

The cause of the suicide seems to be altogether a mystery. Miss Bates said her room-mate was in regular communication with a young gentleman, and that she was certain

the parents of Miss Howlett had not interposed. The dead girl received the last letter from this young man Monday. It was evidently returned, for it could not be found.

### A DELIBERATE ACT.

Miss Howlett showed great coolness and the most determined purposes in her preparation for death. She left nothing to thwart her purpose. It was evidently a keen foresight that caused her to get herself excused from the supper table, in order that her stomach might be empty when the medicine was taken, so that the effect would be more sudden and the end sure. The presence of food in the stomach would cause the poison to remain there much longer than if the stomach were empty, in which case it would mingle with the blood suddenly and defy all attempts to save life. Ordinarily the evening meal would have been digested by the time she took the laudanum, but she was leaving nothing to chance. In order that her purpose might not be suspected, she left her school belongings scattered in that strange maidenly combination of good order but apparent confusion, and placed not a single treasure in her trunk, save the letter to mother. This she kept on her person until the last moment, when she stepped out into hall, raised the lid of her trunk and quickly closed it again. As she had a bottle in her hand, Miss Bates, if she thought of it at all, must have supposed it was to deposit it in the trunk.

### OBTAINING THE LAUDANUM.

One of the rules of Hardin College is that any young lady sending an order to town for merchandise, accompanying it with the price of the article desired, shall not sign her name to it, but leave that space blank and write the words "Hardin College," just below. It is a frequent thing for them to send for medicine, sheet celluloid, comb, brush, hairpins, fruit, tube oil paint or any desired article in this way. This was the plan used by Miss Howlett, and the note was sent to C. A. Buckner, the druggist, inclosing a 25 cent piece, by "Doc" McGee, who gets the daily mails and does chores about the college. As he went to the post-office for the afternoon mail Tuesday he carried the note and was to bring the laudanum back with him. He delivered the note but forgot to wait for the laudanum. When he arrived at the college, Miss Howlett asked him for the package, but he did not have it. She then sent him back to it, saying: "I wish you would get it for me right away, as it is some medicine I am obliged to take before supper." "Doc," who neither reads nor writes, could not read the label, even had the bottle not been wrapped up, and perhaps would have said nothing had he read it. Miss Howlett had made an attempt to get it through one of the pupils who live in town and are only at the college during the day. For some reason she failed in this, hence the other expedient.

### A NOTE TO THE DRUGGIST.

The note carried by "Doc" McGee was sealed and addressed "Buckner's Drug Store." When opened it read thus:

"Buckner's Drug Store—Sir: I have a prescription from a M. D. for laudanum, but have misplaced it and can't find it, but want to know if I can get it without the prescription. If so, send me 25 cents' worth by Doc. If not, I will get another prescription as soon as possible, but please send it if you can, as I am suffering with rheumatism and want it as soon as possible to make some liniment.

Very Respectfully,

HARDIN COLLEGE."

The chirography in this note was beautiful, and there was no trembling of the hand from agitation. Every stroke was firm and the punctuation precise. Of course the laudanum was sent. The State law makes it the duty of the druggist or clerk to label all poisons and register them in a book kept for the purpose. Anyone can get poison at any drug store by making the statement that it is wanted for medical purposes. The law is lax and should be strengthened to protect the druggist as well as the community in general.

When the bottle of laudanum was sent out, it bore a label:

"Laudanum—Poison." Also full directions as to dose.

Aylett H. Whitney, who is a registered pharmacist, filled the order and made the following entry on the register kept for the purpose:

"Date, February 9; cost, 25 cts.; amount, 3 oz. laudanum; name, Doc McGee; residence, Mexico, Mo.; sold by A. H. Whitney."

### IN THE CHAPEL.

The Rev. J. C. Maple, pastor of the First Baptist Church, of Keokuk, Iowa, officiated in the chapel at Hardin College in the morning. He was the second pastor in the list of those who have occupied the pulpit of the Mexico Baptist church. Prof. A. K. Yancey, president of the College, arose and made a statement to the assembled youthful young ladies regarding the death of Miss Howlett. He stated that she had taken an overdose of laudanum, and that the letter indicated clearly that the poison was taken with suicidal intent.

### THE DEAD GIRL.

Miss Alice was about 18 years of age. This was her first year at Hardin, and although coming as a total stranger, was soon one of the favorites of teachers and pupils. Her sister, Miss Maud Howlett, graduated from the institution about two years ago. The dead girl was decidedly

pretty and of medium height. She was rather heavy and had rosy cheeks and abundant dark hair. One of her dearest friends is Miss Fannie Heggy, who is from Miss Howlett's native town in Mississippi county.

### NO INQUEST NECESSARY.

Coroner Rothwell viewed the body at the college yesterday morning and concluded that no inquest was necessary, as it was evidently a case of self-murder.

### DOC MCGEE'S STORY.

Doc McGee said that when he returned from his first trip to town Miss Howlett asked him for her medicine, and he told her he had given it to Miss Cunningham, one of the teachers. He had not, for it was another girl's package and he had made an error. When she was told this she turned suddenly pale and staggered, but quickly recovered and went to the teacher, where she discovered the mistake and sent Doc back to town.

### WHAT A SCHOOL-MATE SAYS.

A bright girl from Hardin says that the name of the young man in the affair is C. Smith, and that he is now in Columbia attending the university. His home is Charleston and he has not been informed of the suicide. Miss Howlett has made other attempts to get laudanum and was subject to fits of despondency.

### LADDONIA BANK SOLD.

The Lucks Buy a Portion of the Stock and Elwyn is Cashier.

It will be a great surprise to the public to know that E. C. Kennen, of Laddonia, Mo., has sold his bank and is going to California to reside. The bank will be a stock company. The majority of the stock will be owned in and around Laddonia, Wilder & Pearson owning quite a block. All the stock not owned in and around Laddonia will be owned by B. L. Locke, Elwyn Locke and S. M. Locke, of Mexico, Mo. Elwyn Locke will be cashier of the institution. This bank has been very successful in the past, and as a stock company, will be very popular. Elwyn Locke, the new cashier, who will take charge about the 15th of April, is a young man of fine habits and splendid business qualifications. He thoroughly understands the banking business, having been more or less a financier all his life, and during the past few months has been identified with the Mexico Savings Bank. Laddonia is one of the most prosperous little towns we now in the State and is situated in the heart of the best farming country in the world.

The sale of the bank was made by Moore & Howell, of this city, agents for E. C. Kennen.

### YOUNGS CREEK ITEMS.

Correspondence of the Ledger.

YOUNGS CREEK, Feb. 10.—W. W. Wilson sold his fine young jack, (Midnight), to Clarence Berry.

Stock hogs are scarce at 4 cents per pound.

Wheat looks as though it had the grip.

Corn is selling at \$1.75 per barrel.

Mrs. N. J. Berry is still confined to her bed.

Mrs. S. S. Callaway is convalescent.

Mr. Charlie Settle is going to move to Kansas City in the near future.

Mrs. Reuben Harlow is improving.

Reck Bros. bought 25 yearling steers at \$20.00 per head.

Mr. Jos. Browning sold 80 acres of land to Price Dowell, at \$30 per acre, also 80 to Chester Dowell, at \$25 per acre.

John Blum sold 80 acres of land to B. F. Dowell, at \$25 per acre.

Clarence Berry sold a mare to W. Wilson, for \$150.

Central school will close next Friday.

### KITE SHAPED TRACK.

Interesting Information as to Dimensions of the New Mexico Track.

From the American Trotter.

We have received many inquiries regarding the dimensions of kite tracks, and for the benefit of such enquirers we will give the dimensions of the kite shaped track at Independence, Iowa:

The track lays north and south with the loop to the north. From the beginning of the turn on the loop to the wire there is 500 feet straight for scoring. The track is 75 feet wide at finish and gradually decreases in width until at the beginning of the turn. 1,574, 743 feet from the wire, it is sixty feet wide, which is the width around the turn. Measured around the turn on the fence line the distance is 2,130,514 feet. Both stretches are the same. The track here is two and a half feet down grade to the first quarter, then five feet up grade to the three-eighths pole, then down grade five feet to the three-quarter pole, then two and a half feet up grade to the finish. The track is on low swampy ground, and is built of decomposed vegetation. To the character of the soil and the condition in which the track is kept, as much as the shape, is due the fastness of this track.

## ROMAN-LEE.

The Most Fashionable Wedding in Callaway County.

HE wedding of L. R. Roman and Miss Etta F. Lee took place at the residence of the bride's parents at Holt's Summit on Wednesday evening February 3rd.

The ceremony was performed by Rev. J. T. Kinsey. Quite a number of relatives and friends were present on this happy occasion. The bride and groom both have a large number of friends in this and Callaway county. The Ledger joins these in extending congratulations. The following is a list of the wedding presents:

### LIST OF PRESENTS.

Center table, oak, Geo. Carleton. Fancy lamp, nickel, Ed. McIntosh.

Fancy mounted clock, G. A. LeDeis, Cedar City.

Wash set, water set, one set of China fruit plates, chocolate pitcher, M. F. Overstreet and family.

One set table knives, Dr. Simcoe. One vegetable dish, Miss Annie Dunn.

One set of napkins, Mollie Hall. Two sets of vases, Misses Robinson and Scholer, Jefferson City.

Fancy Chinese table scarf, G. Meng and sister.

Fancy felt table scarf, Mrs. G. A. LeDeis.

Pair of lace window curtains, Mrs. L. D. Farmer.

Silver pickle stand, Mr. and Mrs. Jackson.

Pair of Turkish towels, B. Standford and sister.

Cut glass water set, Miss Jennie Carleton.

Ten dollars, father of the bride. Beautiful plush toilet set, sister of the bride.

One set of berry dishes, Mrs. Willis.

Five dollars, mother of the bride. Fancy set of napkins, Dr. Tarleton.

Turkish towels, sister of the bride. One pair of towels, brother of the bride.

Fancy lamp, father of the groom. Two big rockers, T. S. Adams.

Two big rockers, T. S. Adams. Silver butter knife, Miss Mamie Hensley.

One large rocker, Messrs. Holt, Bennett and McIntosh.

Jewelry case and satin handkerchief holder, R. Dallmeyer and wife, Jefferson City.

Satin hand-painted photograph holder and silver thimble, Miss Lillian Lee, Wichita, Kas.

Cut glass berry bowl, niece of the bride, Little Annie Holt.

Silver butter knife and sugar shell, L. D. Adkinson.

White linen table cloth, Miss Daisy Lee, Wichita, Kansas.

One pair of blankets, A. P. and M. C. Holt.

Cut glass water set, J. Y. McLean and wife.

Plush manicure set, Misses Mamie and Lizzie Matthews.

Wash set complete, Geo. Dunn. Blue plush table scarf and lamp mat, Miss Bettie Farmer and Mr. Otis Farmer.

Cut glass water set, L. Stokes and sister.

One pair of white linen towels, Wm. Hart.

After dinner China tea set, Miss Pooley and brother.

One set of preserve stands, Miss Martha Reynolds.

One set silver spoons, Ella and Pearl Holt.

One pair of towels, J. Greenway.

One pair of towels, Aunt Sallie Lee.

One set of fancy lamp mats, Miss Lulu Hensley, Fulton.